

**Abstract**

Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the HIV protein *vpr* or nucleic acid molecule encoding *vpr* are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods of treating patients  
5 suffering from diseases characterized by hyperproliferating undifferentiated cells such as cancer by administering such compositions. Methods of identifying compounds which have anti-HIV activity are disclosed, in particular, methods of identifying compounds which modulate the activity of *vpr* and  
10 of identifying compounds which inhibit *vpr* binding to the HIV protein *gag*.

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